



2017 Calendar of Events

Frost Faire

Saturday, January 28

Visitor Center

11am – 3pm

Frost Faires were hugely popular in the 1700s—help us carry on the tradition at the 22nd annual Frost Faire at the Battlefield!

- With snow, bring your snow tube or plastic sled and enjoy the **NEW** sledding area behind the visitor center!
- Enjoy horse-drawn wagon rides to Tour Stop 1 and back.
- Join a noontime nature walk and scavenger hunt, see winter soldiers fire muskets, and enjoy a bonfire and hot cocoa. Indoor activities include crafts, games, dancing, and music.

Guided Winter Hikes

Saturday, February 11

Battlefield

& Sunday, March 19

1pm – 2:30pm

Snow or no snow, get outside and take a hike! Join park rangers for a guided hike through the battlefield, get in touch with the natural surroundings, and learn a few survival skills—all while walking in the footsteps of history!

Lunch & Learn Ranger Programs

Wednesdays, February 22

Visitor Center

March 22 & April 26

12 noon – 1pm

Bring a bag lunch and join a Park Ranger to beat cabin fever a bit by enjoying special presentations on some lesser-known topics from the American Revolution.

February 22: *employed in the service of Great Britain:* ‘Hessians’ in the American War for Independence

March 22: *for nobler action beyond:* commemorating the Battles of Saratoga

April 26: *bare feet, clothed in dirty rags:* women of the American Revolution

National Park Week

April 15 – 23

Junior Ranger Day

Saturday, April 15

Visitor Center

Have you ever held deer antlers? Have you ever wanted to try on a ranger hat? Do you know what a bladder bag is used for? Kick off National Park Week with some special activities - programs are available for children of all ages. Ongoing activities to include a touch table, kid-friendly relay course, uniform try-on station for kids, and Junior Ranger activity book!

10am-11am: Bells and Whistles

- Get close-up views of a fire truck and law enforcement vehicle and check out a variety of equipment that rangers use to keep you safe!

12pm-1pm: Take a Hike

- Hit the trail with a Park Ranger for a short 1-mile walk and photo scavenger hunt.

2pm-3pm: Junior Ranger Rendezvous

- Inviting all Junior Rangers to share their stories of visiting National Parks and show off your badge collection!

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Basic Orienteering Class

Thursday, April 20

Visitor Center / Battlefield

6pm – 7pm

Meet on the visitor center patio to learn how to read a map and compass; then practice those skills outdoors on a simple orienteering course. Maps and compasses will be provided. This can be an individual, family, or small group activity. This course is free, but pre-registration is required and space is limited to 24 participants—to register, please call (518)670-2985. **Rain date: Thursday, April 27**

Sunset Walk: Woodcock Aerial Displays

Thursday, April 27

Battlefield

6pm – 8pm

Join park naturalist Linda White by the flagpole in the visitor center parking lot at 6pm and walk to Tour Stop 5 and back (1.5 miles each way). See amazing dusk-time aerial displays by woodcocks, listen for owls, and look for deer or foxes too! Please bring a flashlight, water, insect repellent, and wear sturdy shoes. **Event cancelled if raining.**

East Meets West

Sunday, April 30

Visitor Center

Global interaction started before the Internet! Enjoy a concert of 18th-century Indian music by renowned musician and Skidmore College music department lecturer Veena Chandra. Then, learn how events in India during the 18th century affected the Revolutionary War, and how America's Revolutionary War affected India in a lecture by Skidmore College Professor Tillman Nechtman. **Concert 2pm ; Lecture: 3pm**

I Love My Park Day

Saturday, May 6

Battlefield

9am – 1pm

An exciting statewide volunteer service day sponsored by Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) and New York State Parks. Saratoga National Historical Park will be participating by offering several half-day volunteering opportunities.

More than just a work day, I Love My Park Day provides opportunities to “love your parks back” by learning more about public lands through hands-on community engagement. What goes on behind the scenes to make visitors' park experiences enjoyable and worthwhile? Come be part of the process! **Pre-register at www.ptny.org.**

Birding and Nature Walks

Saturdays, May 20; June 10 & 24

Battlefield

10am – 12noon

Join park naturalist Linda White by the flagpole in the visitor center parking lot at 10am and caravan to special places in the park to see blooming flowers, plants, and migratory birds. Please bring water and insect repellent and wear sturdy shoes. **Event cancelled if raining.**

Bike Summit

Sunday, May 21

Visitor Center / Battlefield

9am – 5pm

May is National Bike Month, so get your bikes out of winter storage and bring them to Saratoga National Historical Park! Join Saratoga NHP and a variety of local bike organizations and shops to prep your gear for the 2017 biking season. Events to include the unveiling of new fixit stations, bike skills training, bike safety messages, tune-ups and safety checks, and a 5-mile ranger-guided bike tour! **Event cancelled if raining.**

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Memorial Day

Monday, May 29

Visitor Center

10am – 4pm

Nearly 500 Americans were killed or wounded in the Battles of Saratoga, while some were from New York State, most were from New England, and most are still buried on the battlefield in unmarked graves. This special event focuses on the sacrifices made by Connecticut militia officers and soldiers who lost their lives at Saratoga in 1777.

Musket firing demonstrations will take place throughout the day, as well as other living history activities which showcase aspects of American soldier and follower life during the Revolutionary War. At 11:00am and 3:00pm, park staff and volunteers from the public will be invited to read the names of Connecticut men who died in the Battles of Saratoga, battles which marked the “most important battle fought in the world during the last 1,000 years.”

Raptors Rock!

Sunday, June 11

Visitor Center

1:30pm – 3pm

Designated by the Audubon Society as an “Important Birding Area” in NY, Saratoga Battlefield offers awesome bird watching opportunities! Wildlife educator and rehabilitator Trish Marki will bring a selection of raptors—owls, hawks, falcons—for you to meet up close and to hear about where they live and how they survive in their habitat.

NYS Path Through History Weekend

June 17 – 18

Peter Salem Day

Saturday, June 17

Visitor Center

In June 1927, the National Equal Rights League issued a nation-wide call to instate Peter Salem Day on June 17 of every year, in order to honor Peter Salem, an African American soldier in the American War for Independence, and to highlight the valuable service and sacrifice African Americans have made from the country's birth through every military conflict. A number of remarkable African American men served in the Battles of Saratoga - hear stories about a few of the many hundreds of free and enslaved black men who fought here!

Lecture: 10am – 11am

AND

Lecture: 2pm – 3pm

Living History Day

Sunday, June 18

Battlefield

10am – 4pm

A single-day event with “living history” demonstrations—presentations of several examples from everyday civilian and military life in 1770s America.

Independence Day

Tuesday, July 4

Visitor Center

Celebrate and give cheers as 20 immigrants become citizens of the USA! Enjoy patriotic music and hear the crack of musket fire and booming cannons. Join in 13 lemonade toasts to the “new” United States.

10am – 11am

Join Park Ranger *Emeritus* Joe Craig as he portrays a town crier declaring America's Independence and leads a rousing 13 celebratory toasts. Cannon and musket firing demonstrations all day!

2pm – 2:30pm

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Children's Program Series

Wednesdays, July 5, 12, 19 & 26

Visitor Center

1pm – 3pm

Educator Shari Crawford delights children while teaching them about the lives of youngsters in 18th-century America.

July 5: Open Fire Cooking – ash cakes, johnny cakes, fruits, and more

July 12: Toys and Games – playing was fun in the 18th century too!

July 19: English Country Dancing – dance, play, and learn proper etiquette

July 26: Laundry and Dress Up – wash, splash, and dress up 18th-century style

Evening Bike Tours

Thursdays, July 6 & 13; Tuesdays July 18 & 25;

Battlefield

& Wednesdays, August 2, 9 & 16

6pm – 8pm

Join a park ranger for gentle rides along 4-6-mile sections of the park while hearing a variety of park stories. Meet by the flagpole in the visitor center parking lot. Please bring your bike, water, and insect repellent. **Helmets are required. Event cancelled if raining.**

Morning History Strolls

July 10 & 11; August 3 & 4; August 23 & 24

Battlefield

9:30am – 11:00am

Meet at the visitor center to join Park Volunteers Jerry Parker, Ray Palmer, and Rick Rosen on a series of leisurely guided tours exploring the first and second Battles of Saratoga. Caravan to various locations, then walk up to 1 mile over uneven ground. Please bring water and insect repellent and wear sturdy shoes. **Event cancelled if raining.**

Monday, July 10: The Battle of Freeman's Farm, 19 September 1777

Tuesday, July 11: The Battle of Bemus Heights, 7 October 1777

Thursday, August 3: The Battle of Freeman's Farm, 19 September 1777

Friday, August 4: The Battle of Bemus Heights, 7 October 1777

Wednesday, August 23: The Battle of Freeman's Farm, 19 September 1777

Thursday, August 24: The Battle of Bemus Heights, 7 October 1777

Army Trades Weekend

Saturday & Sunday, July 15 & 16

Battlefield

10am – 4pm

Armies in the American Revolution were towns on the move and included important craftsmen like blacksmiths, carpenters, tailors, cordwainers, coopers, and tinsmiths. Chat with demonstrators and learn "How it's Made" 18th-century style!

Noontime August Music Series

Tuesdays, August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Visitor Center

12 noon – 1pm

The track is closed but music echoes through the Hudson River Valley, help us in celebrating several notable anniversaries throughout the month of August. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy the views while listening to noontime concerts every Tuesday. **Sponsored by the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield.**

August 1: Ampersand with folk music of the 18th Century

August 8: Triskele with traditional Celtic music

August 15: Dave Ruch sings songs of the Erie Canal

August 22: Chordial String Quartet performs music of the 1940s

August 29: Fort Ticonderoga Fife and Drum Corps serves up martial music of the Revolutionary War

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18th-Century Day

Sunday, August 13

Schuyler House, Schuylerville

12 noon – 5pm

Step back in time at the historic Schuyler House as the grounds come alive with 18th-century activities. Listen to music, see puppet shows, chair caning, candle dipping, rope making, beer brewing, spinning, dyeing, quilting, tinsmithing, broom making, and more! **Hosted by the Old Saratoga Historical Association.**

Birding and Nature Walks

Saturdays, September 9 & 23; October 14

Battlefield

10am – 11:30am

Join park naturalist Linda White by the flagpole in the visitor center parking lot at 10am and caravan to special places in the park to see blooming flowers, plants, and migratory birds. Please bring water and insect repellent and wear sturdy shoes. **Event cancelled if raining.**

Camp Now or Never

Saturday & Sunday, September 16 & 17

Battlefield

Commemorating the 240th anniversary of the Battle of Freeman's Farm, come explore the lives of men, women, and children of the American Army! Learn the soldiers' musket drill, hear cannon and musket firings, smell the aromas of open-fire cooking, take part in a special guided tour of Freeman's Farm, or help decide a court martial!

- Camp opens
- Wreath laying by Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution. All are welcome!

Saturday, 10am – 4pm; Sunday, 10am – 3pm

Sunday, 2pm – 2:30pm

Evening History Strolls

Tuesdays, September 19 & October 10

Battlefield / Victory Woods

6pm – 7:30pm

Join a Park Ranger on two guided evening strolls exploring the Battles of Saratoga. Tours will include hiking between 1 and 2 miles over uneven ground. Please bring a flashlight or headlamp, water and insect repellent and wear sturdy shoes. **September 19th tour:** meet by the flagpole in the visitor center parking lot. **October 10th tour:** meet by the restrooms near the Monument parking lot.

September 19: *we ought to March out and attack them:* the Battle of Freeman's Farm

October 10: *All things in this camp became sadder and sadder for us:* the Siege at Saratoga

National Bike Your Park Day

Saturday, September 30

Battlefield

Join the celebration of National Public Lands Day! Explore your parks and public lands by cycling with thousands of people across the country on the same day — the second annual Bike Your Park Day! Bring your friends and family and help them discover the bicycling opportunities in your backyard. A special program will be offered during the afternoon, details will be made available in August. **Event cancelled if raining.**

It is the army's strongest post

Saturday & Sunday, October 7 & 8

Battlefield

Marking the 240th anniversary of the Battle of Bemus Heights, come explore the lives of men, women, and children of the British Army! Learn the soldiers' musket drill, hear cannon and musket firings, smell the aromas of open-fire cooking, take part in a special guided tour of Breymann's fortified camp, or help decide a court martial!

- Camp opens

Saturday, 10am – 4pm; Sunday, 10am – 3pm

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Candlelight Tour

Saturday, October 14

Schuyler House, Schuylerville

6pm – 9pm

Step back in time and experience General Philip Schuyler's 1777 country home in a whole new light! Candlelit tours of the house are offered throughout the evening with light refreshments, period music, and a campfire following the tour. **Hosted by the Old Saratoga Historical Association.**

Surrender Day

Tuesday, October 17

Special location: Fort Hardy Park, Schuylerville

10am – 11am

Witness the recreated surrender of British General Burgoyne to American General Gates, sing patriotic songs with Schuylerville and Salem school children, and drink 13 original toasts to the American Victory! **Sponsored by the Village of Schuylerville and Town of Saratoga.**

Veterans Day

Saturday, November 11

Visitor Center

10am – 3pm

Join Saratoga National Historical Park in honoring all those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Continental soldiers and militiamen who served here at Saratoga in 1777. Musket firing demonstrations and discussions about Revolutionary War American soldiers will take place throughout the day.

For more information: Saratoga National Historical Park
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